

IOWA BIRD LIFE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

VOL. VIII

JUNE, 1938

NO. 2



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The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publications of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; 'The Bulletin,' 1929-1930; 'Iowa Bird Life,' beginning 1931.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Iowa, \$1.00 a year (includes membership dues). Outside of Iowa, 50c a year. Special rate for all libraries, 50c a year. Single copies 15c each. (Keep the Editor informed of your correct address.)

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE
WINTHROP, IOWA

THE EUROPEAN PARTRIDGE IN NORTH-CENTRAL IOWA.

By WILLIAM E. GREEN and GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON¹Economic Zoology and Entomology Section, Agricultural Experiment Station,
and the Division of Industrial Science, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa

The European Partridge, *Perdix perdix perdix* (Linnaeus), is more commonly known as the Hungarian Partridge, and often is called Gray Partridge. This bird, native game in central and southeastern Europe, has recently been imported to the United States to supplement the supply of native upland birds. It was first introduced into Iowa in 1910 (Leopold, 1931), although it is not known how many were released at that time. These plantings were made in north-central Iowa, and from them birds drifted into the southern part of Minnesota. As no detailed records were kept on these plantings, information concerning the early history is necessarily fragmentary. Gordon (1935) says that in 1914, Iowa bought 6,000 Huns, but that they did not appear to do well and soon nearly disappeared; but he adds that they have come back in some places and today are doing well, especially in the north-central part of the state.

Farm people in northern Iowa often speak of the European Partridge as a "quail". Such confusion is easily accounted for because the partridge and quail are both in the same family, *Perdidae*. The obvious relationship in structure and habits further explains the mistaking of the European Partridge for the native Bob-white Quail, *Colinus virginianus virginianus*, which is not numerous in northern counties. The partridge is intermediate in size between the Bob-white and the Greater Prairie Chicken, *Tympanuchus cupido americanus*. Like the Prairie Chicken it lives more in open fields, and is almost exclusively a ground dweller.

This partridge is a strong flier but a single flight seldom exceeds a quarter of a mile. In flight, the Hungarians appear much like the Bob-whites. The entire covey flushes at once, usually with a loud whirring of wings. As a rule, after the strong, noisy take-off, a bird's wings are spread and the birds sail for some distance. The senior writer "clocked" a few coveys that flew in such a way that their speed could be determined from the speedometer of the car, and found that the Huns sailed at a speed of about 35 miles per hour. This rapid flight is not sustained for any length of time, however.

The color pattern of the European Partridge shows a reticulate intermixture of black, white, rusty, and cream on the back, neck and breast. That, together with a nearly clear black and white on the breast, gives it a grayish appearance. The throat, face, and superciliary lines are tawny chestnut, and there is a conspicuous horse-shoe of rich chestnut on the upper abdomen. The outer tail feathers are reddish brown, and form a distinct and very conspicuous mark when the birds are flushed.

The sexes are difficult to distinguish in the field. It is generally stated that the best way of differentiating between the sexes is by the markings on the wing-covert feathers. At all ages the wing-coverts have buff cross-bars in the female whereas in the male there is only a longitudinal stripe, characters not readily discerned at even a short distance in the open.

For several years in northern Iowa, mostly in the north-central counties, the partridge population has maintained itself in fairly constant numbers, but the population has never been very high. Observations made on the Experimental Game Management Area in Winnebago County, Iowa, (an area primarily established for the study of the Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus torquatus*, Gmelin) have shown

¹Journal Paper No. J-560 of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa. Project No. 197. Iowa State College, in Cooperation with the Iowa State Conservation Commission, the United States Biological Survey and the American Wildlife Institute.

that in the past few years the partridges have increased to a considerable extent.

In the fall of 1935, when the pheasant studies were initiated by the senior writer, at that time under the direction of Logan J. Bennett, U. S. Biological Survey, and of the junior author, there were only 36 partridges on the 4900-acre tract under observation. At the present time (May, 1938) there are 140 partridges on the same area.

The Huns are very winter-hardy, as evidenced by the fact that during the severe winter of 1935-'36, only one was known to have succumbed. (During the same winter 48.2 per cent of the pheasants on the area were lost). The single dead partridge was found on February 23, 1936. As the breast profile was 80 per cent normal, that bird had not starved to death. No cause for its death was revealed during the examination of the carcass by the writers and several co-workers.

Perhaps one of the reasons why the partridges are so winter-hardy is that they huddle together so closely to conserve warmth. On several occasions the senior writer flushed a covey of nine to observe that the depression left in the snow where they had roosted was smaller than that made by one pheasant.

During severe weather Hungarians are frequently found roosting in open fields apparently away from all shelter, and they do not seem to suffer from the exposure. Leopold (1931) states, "Hungarians come nearer being able to get along without cover than pheasants or quail. Apparently they need neither brush nor woodland, but during snow they do require some heavy grass, weeds, or standing corn."

The partridges on the area seemed to prefer wild plum to all other protective cover. In each case where there was a plum thicket near the range of the Huns, such a thicket was used as cover.

As a rule, partridges and pheasants do not utilize the same coverts. But during the winter of 1938, in one instance under observation the two species did use a willow thicket together. In this thicket were found daily about 46 pheasants and 40 Huns. The Huns were in two coveys of 33 and 7, respectively. However, the two species did not use the same part of the cover; the pheasants used one end of the willows while the Huns were found at the other end.

There was a marked tendency for each covey to remain intact and separate from other coveys. In the case of the two coveys mentioned above, the partridges were often found to mix while feeding, but when they flushed, the birds invariably split into two coveys, always consisting of 33 and 7 birds, respectively. When these coveys went to the willows to roost at night they frequently were found in close proximity to each other, but there was always at least a short distance between the coveys.

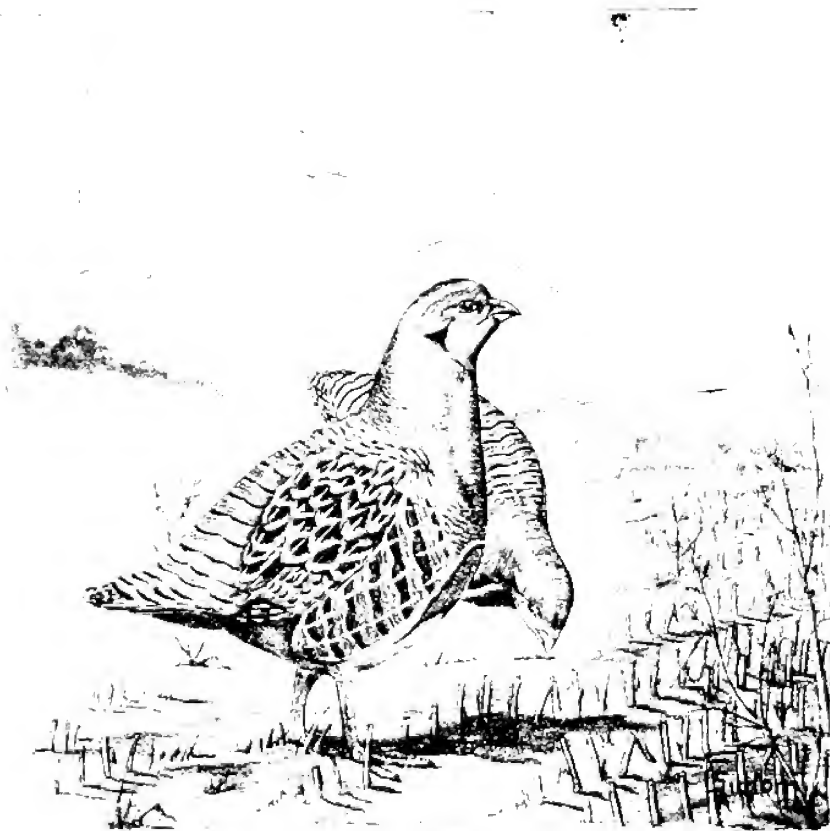
In the winter of 1935-'36, partridges and pheasants were not observed to feed together. However, during the winter of 1937-'38 mixed feeding of the two species was observed in the vicinity of the willow row already mentioned. There was no fighting between the species while they fed.

The Huns are nearly always found in the vicinity of small knolls and less in low ground. Their range is somewhat restricted and the coveys seldom range over a quarter of a mile. When the birds are flushed the first time, they fly straight ahead for a short distance before settling. If the same covey is followed and flushed again, it veers off a little in flight, and if they are flushed a third time, the birds circle and tend to return to the same locality from which they first flushed.

Yeatter (1934) found that the mobility of the species in winter appears to depend both on the habits formed by the covey and on the location of the feeding grounds. He further states that the winter mobility of the Huns in Michigan varied in magnitude, but that 20 per cent of the coveys had a range or "cruising radius" of not over one-eighth of a mile.

Mating of the Huns occurs rather early in the year. On the area under observation in Winnebago County, mating was observed in the latter part of February, 1938. Since it is difficult to tell the sexes apart in the field, it is assumed that they have mated when they segregate out in pairs.

On the Winnebago area during the summers of 1936 and 1937 notes were taken on 21 nests. Of these nests 5 were found along the fence line or very near the edges of the fields, 11 were found in the tenth mower swath, 3 were found in the space between the tenth and twentieth swath and 2 were found in the twentieth mower swath. The nest is made on the ground in a shallow depression smoothed out by the birds. It is made up apparently of two layers, with a coarse layer on the outside and a finer layer inside. The coarse layer is composed of coarse grass, dead weed stems, or straw. Sometimes body feathers may be found in this layer. The inner layer is composed of fine grass stems such as bluegrass or alfalfa, and often the nests are more or less lined with down. In older nests the downy lining is more noticeable than in new nests. As the clutch nears completion and before incubation begins, there is usually a rather thick lining of feathers in the nest.



THE EUROPEAN PARTRIDGE
From a drawing by Sidney J. Gorn

The partridges as a rule have large clutches. Many of them have 20 or more eggs per nest. One nest was found with 22 eggs in it, but the nest was destroyed in mowing. Another with 20 eggs was exposed by mowing, but the senior writer took the eggs and incubated them under a domestic hen.

Apparently only the female incubates the eggs. She seldom leaves the nest during the day, but may leave it for a short time in early morning or late evening. The incubation period is 24 days.

The newly hatched young are quite small, about of the same size as a newly hatched quail. They are streaked with browns of varying shades, giving them a striped appearance. The stripes start at the eyes, diverge and continue along the body. Observations made on those hatched by a domestic hen showed that the young started to feed soon after hatching. They would not eat prepared chick mash at first, but preferred tender grass shoots. Later, they did eat the mash.

No observations were made on the rate of development of the young. The chicks follow the hen around for some time after hatching. Even in late fall, old birds may be seen with large young ones still with them.

The largest family of young seen with a single hen numbered 36. Possibly this brood was the result of two hens laying in the same nest, or perhaps one hen was caring for the young from two separate clutches.

The young are able to fly soon after hatching, and at the age of a few weeks they are fairly adept at it, although they soon tire and do not make long flights. Should the old bird leave the young when flushed, the young hide, usually more or less scattered. They seem to group together again soon after the danger is past and wait for the old bird to return.

No attempts were made to ascertain the feeding habits of the Huns on the area. No crops or stomachs were examined, and the only thing ascertained about the feeding habits is that learned by observation. It is believed that the partridges do no damage to crops, at least by the farmers on the area. Most of the farmers feel that the birds are harmless and want them on their farms. Many of the farmers feed the Huns in the hog lots during the winter, either intentionally or otherwise. Without exception, the farmers want the partridges on their farms.

It has been noticed that since the pheasant population has been so decimated by hard winters and poor nesting seasons, the Huns on the area have increased. Whether or not there is any correlation is not known. Possibly there is such a thing as maximum carrying capacity of the land for all species, and when one species is too prominent, the others are restricted. Leopold (1931) states, "The best Hungarian range is never the best pheasant range. . . . The best pheasant range is never the best Hungarian range. . . . On range inhabited by pheasants, Hungarians, and quail, not more than one species seems to reach its saturation point. . . . Low population of pheasants, Hungarians, and quail . . . may coexist on the same farm."

In an attempt to ascertain, if possible, how far the Huns move from their winter range, trapping was tried with the ultimate intention of banding. It was thought that perhaps some ideas could be gathered to explain why the population has not been built up much higher. It is believed by some that the excess of birds that are obviously produced on the area migrate away from the range from which they are raised, and it was hoped that if some could be banded, sufficient returns could be obtained to give some indication of just what happens. However, these efforts failed because in every case where the partridges were taken in the trap, jackrabbits were also taken, and the latter animals gnawed their way out, thus creating holes through which the Huns also escaped.

The seasonal variations in the partridge populations from the time the studies were initiated are shown in the following summary:

Winter, 1935-'36	36
Spring, 1936	35
Fall, 1936	32
Spring, 1937	16
Winter, 1937-'38	140

Thus it is apparent that the population has fluctuated markedly during the period in which the observations were made. These fluctuations, so far, have not been satisfactorily explained. With some intensive banding work, perhaps some ideas may be obtained to explain what happens to the birds. At any rate, in the past year there has been a marked increase in the population. Now it will be of interest to see if this population will maintain itself or whether the excess will disperse or disappear until the level which has been maintained during past years is reached. Possibly when and if the pheasant population is built up to the same level it held before the disastrous winter of 1935-'36, the European Partridge will lose the little advantage it has gained in the last year, and the old situation of low, fairly constant densities will result.

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THE SECOND CEDAR RAPIDS CONVENTION

By KATE E. LA MAR

Sec'y-Treasurer, Iowa Ornithologists Union

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was called to order by the President, Myrle Jones, in the French Room of the Montrose Hotel, Cedar Rapids, on Friday morning, May 6, 1938. The room was crowded with members and friends and several sat in the adjoining room during the morning session. Dr. H. M. Gage, president of Coe College, welcomed the group to Cedar Rapids. He read excerpts from the book, 'Bird Notes from the Journal of a Bird Lover', by the late Wm. G. Ross of Fairfield. Dr. Gage felt that bird study met the needs of the people for outdoor play. A response was made by A. J. Palas of Postville. Mr. Palas stated that children should be taught if conservation is to succeed. The late Drs. Shimek and Pammel were two of the greatest teachers in Iowa and laid much of the foundation for the future study of both plants and birds.

W. E. Green of Iowa State College spoke on the Hungarian Partridge, an exotic bird in Iowa that is hardy, lays large clutches of eggs, and thrives on insect pests. Dr. G. O. Hendrickson spoke of the field research now being done by Iowa State College, not only on game birds and water fowl but on song birds, too. The State Conservation Commission, U. S. Biological Survey and the Extension Division of

the College work in close harmony in compiling material on the birds of Iowa; a number of bulletins are in use and are available to students. Dr. Hendrickson introduced Ellis A. Hicks. Through the work of the College Mr. Hicks contacts farmers on conservation problems such as the burning of fence rows which provide cover for the birds and native animals.

"Bird Clubs for Children," with suggestions for both indoor and outdoor work, was adequately covered by Mrs. Ray Dix of Cedar Falls and Mrs. M. L. Jones of Pomeroy. Mrs. Dix recommended the Audubon leaflets, feeding trays, clay work, and food for raising unfortunate young birds. Mrs. Jones suggested response to roll call with a story or a name of a bird, work in coloring pictures, keeping note-books, etc., and studying old nests in fall and winter. "A Report of the Dubuque Bird Club," by E. A. Hemsley, was interesting. He spoke of cat pests, various bird records, and of governmental projects, one of which is the cutting of 13,000 acres of virgin timber along the Mississippi River. The changes in bird life in the region are keeping the members of the club busy.

Before the noon adjournment there was a roll call of the Charter Members of the Union. Of the 19 Charter Members still continuing their membership, it was found that the following nine were present: Mrs. Mary Bailey, Walter W. Bennett, Arthur J. Palas, Fred J. Pierce, Walter M. Rosen, Dr. T. C. Stephens, Mrs. C. B. Trewin, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, and B. O. Wolden. It would be a fine record if this group of 19 could all be present at the meeting next year.

The afternoon session opened with Mrs. W. G. MacMartin of Tama showing two reels of colored moving pictures, "Birds and Nature in Iowa," which were very interesting. Mrs. C. C. Flodin of Cedar Rapids followed by a talk on "Spreading the Gospel of Bird-love." She explained the methods and results of window displays in prominent buildings, the Cedar Rapids Bird Club and Coe College having sponsored six such windows showing the study of birds by a museum arrangement. "Factors Controlling Sexual Activity in Female Sparrows," was given by Dr. R. M. Riley of the University of Iowa. His experiment has shown that the light day is the important factor. Dr. M. L. Grant of Iowa State Teachers College told of the birds found on the South Sea islands. He stated that many birds, such as geese, grebes, cranes, flycatchers and others, were not seen in Polynesia. The kingfisher there catches insects, while the starling was imported from India to destroy the wasps on the island. "Bird Study for the Family" was presented by Dr. Mary Price Roberts of Spirit Lake. She concluded that in the family there should be play and not too much work in bird study, and success or failure may be due to the factors of field glasses or staying too long for the child to keep interested. The afternoon program closed with "The Forum," conducted by Dr. F. L. R. Roberts and with the subject, "Locations in Iowa of Special Interest to Ornithologists," given a prominent place. Many persons responded with short talks, and the following birds and their occurrence over the state were among those described: Cliff Swallow, Black-crowned and Great Blue Herons, Blue and Snow Geese, Mockingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Red Cross-bill and Evening Grosbeak.

The business meeting was brief and closed the afternoon session. It was voted to accept the invitation to hold the annual convention at Spirit Lake in 1939. A second invitation had come from the Dubuque Bird Club, but the prior invitation from Spirit Lake was accepted for 1939, with Dubuque as a probable first choice in 1940. The Nominating Committee, composed of Drs. Roberts and Stephens and Walter Bennett, made its report. The officers elected are as given on the title page of this issue. The Auditing Committee, Nichols and Pierce, reported that the Treasurer's books were found in order and satisfactory.

The annual banquet was served in the Terrace Room of the hotel with 100 or more persons in attendance. E. J. Petranek acted as toastmaster. He called on Walter Bennett, Walter Rosen, Dr. Hendrickson and a few others for brief talks, and there was singing in which the entire company took part. The speaker of the evening was George Tonkin, Regional Director of the U. S. Biological Survey, Des Moines. Mr. Tonkin told of the Survey's work in the field and requested all present to help when possible. Many people sell land to the government for refuge purposes, then through a legislator try to recover it for grazing. Grazing destroys the cover needed next year for nesting birds. And hunting clubs besiege the Bureau to obtain rights to hunt on the refuge. Drainage ditches ruin many good refuges for game. Three reels of interesting moving pictures taken by Mr. Tonkin were shown. These included migrating geese at Sioux City and birds and mammals in Minnesota.

The field trip on Saturday morning was a success in spite of rather unfavorable weather. Those who saw the caravan of about 20 autos lined up on the highway and nearly 80 people in the field, over 50 in one group, could understand what is meant by "the army of bird students." Noon luncheon, at which we were guests of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club, was served to 82 persons, at the Amana Colony Inn near Amana Lake. After a fine lunch, short speeches were made, songs were sung, the bird list was compiled, goodbyes were said, and another very successful convention became history.

Attendance Register.—AMES, Wm. E. Green, Ellis A. Hicks, Dr. and Mrs. G. O. Hendrickson, Theodore Swem, Chas. Yocom; ARNOLDS PARK, W. W. Bennett; BAXTER, Rev. and Mrs. D. E. Bosma; CEDAR FALLS, Rhea Disney, Mrs. R. S. Dix, Myrtle Gaffin, Dr. Winifred Gilbert, Dr. Martin Grant; CEDAR RAPIDS, Jean Bice, Geo. R. Boone, Miriam Confare, Esther Copp, Mary J. Davis, Glen Daugherty, Margaret Dickey, Lavina Dragoo, Mrs. Ralph Dresher, Mrs. Ida Elliott, Wallace Emmons, Mrs. C. C. Flodin, Marvill Foster, Virgil Foushee, Dr. H. M. Gage, Glen M. Hathorn, Mrs. Ben Hazen, Helen Henry, Isabel Hoyman, Helen Kidd, Hattie Klahn, Lois Klinifelter, Edyth Logan, Everett Lowry, Mrs. L. J. Maresh, Scotty McLeod, Ingeborg Nielsen, Mrs. A. Nilsson, Lavinia K. North, Ethel Orr, Helen Pattee, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Pazdera, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Petranek, Wilma Polderboer, Mrs. J. E. Powers, Rev. Henry Scherer, Lillian Serbousek, Jerry Standard, Evelyn Stoakes, Robt. Stodola, Iola Tillapaugh, Wilma Van Orsdol, Jean Williamson, Myra Willis; CENTRAL CITY, Ruth Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pike; COGGON, Esther Henderson, Irene Montgomery, Marian Savage; DAVENPORT, Elizabeth Ann Coe, Dorothy Jones; DES MOINES, Helen Hovde, Kate LaMar, Olivia McCabe, Jack Musgrove, Mrs. R. J. Thornburg, Geo. Tonkin, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg; DUBUQUE, Ethan Hemsley, Margaret Kohlman, Woodrow Radle, Mrs. C. B. Trewin, Edna Walter, Mary Young; ESTHERVILLE, B. O. Wolden; GRUNDY CENTER, Mrs. Helen G. King, Mrs. Jennie Meyers; IOWA CITY, Edna Flesner, Malcolm McDonald, R. M. Riley, Mary Elaine Roberts; MT. VERNON, J. W. Strickland, Jr.; NEVADA, Henry Birkeland; OELWEIN, Delma Stockwell; OGDEN, W. M. Rosen; POMEROY, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones; POSTVILLE, A. J. Palas; SAC CITY, Laura Putbrese; SHELBY, Ivan Boyd; SIOUX CITY, Mrs. Mary Bailey, Wilfred Crabb, Dr. and Mrs. T. C. Stephens; SPIRIT LAKE, Dr. and Mrs. F. L. R. Roberts, Velma Roberts; SUMNER, Jean Heyer, Margaret Murley; TAMA, Mrs. J. G. Ennis, Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, Mrs. H. F. Storm, Mrs. C. J. Wanser; WATERLOO, John Eliese, Lucile and Myra Loban, Lillian Maxwell, Harvey Nichols, Wanda Wilharm; WEST BRANCH, Irene Carran; WINTHROP, F. J. Pierce; CLARKS GROVE, MINN., Mrs. A. R. Jenson; MOLINE, ILL., Ruth Beitel. Total registered, 120.

Birds Seen on the Field Trip.—Wood and ponds south of Cedar Rapids, and Amana Lake, Linn and Iowa Counties; May 7, about 6:30 a. m. to 12. Light rain until 8:30, then cloudy and cold.

Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Green Heron, Least Bittern, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Ring-necked, Canvas-back and Scaup Ducks, Ruddy Duck (Nichols), Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks, Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, King, Virginia and Sora Rails, Am. Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted, Solitary, Pectoral and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Phalarope, Forster's and Black Terns, Common Tern (Musgrove), Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Kingbird, Crested and Least Flycatchers, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Tree, Bank, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House and Prairie Marsh Wrens, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood, Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Shrike, Starling, Blue-headed, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Philadelphia Vireo (McDonald), Black and White, Blue-winged, Tenn., Nashville, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Myrtle, Palm and Connecticut Warblers, Oven-bird, Grinnell's and Louisiana Water-thrushes, Northern Yellow-throat, Redstart, Bobolink, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Goldfinch, Towhee, English, Savannah, Grasshopper, Vesper, Lark, Chipping, Field, White-throated, Swamp and Song Sparrows. Total, 115 species.

GENERAL NOTES

A Late Fall Record of the Great Blue Heron.—On the morning of November 21, 1937, when the mercury stood at 9.4 below zero, the writer was agreeably surprised to see a Great Blue Heron feeding in a small opening of swift water in the Floyd River within the limits of Sioux City. The bird when flushed flew down the river a short distance and then headed west in the direction of the Missouri River. Great gobs of frozen mud clung to its feet, but regardless of this added weight the great bird lifted itself easily and flew out of sight.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

Bluebirds in Winter at McGregor.—November 22 was the latest I had ever seen Bluebirds here, but during the past winter I saw them after everything was covered with snow and sleet. I recorded from two to ten on December 8, 11, 13 and 24, 1937. They came to my bird feeder on which I had placed branches of bittersweet. They ate the berries but would not touch the other food. I did not see them again until January 14, 1938, when two came with a flock of Slate-colored Juncos. They were here almost every day during that week, and I saw them often during February.—M. ELLEN THORNBURGH, McGregor, Iowa.

Winter Notes from Sioux City.—A lone Meadowlark was seen almost daily during December, January and February as it fed along the railroad tracks near the coal-yard. Waste grain is scattered along these tracks and is a good source of food for pigeons and English Sparrows, as well as the Meadowlark. Sparrow Hawks were seen several times during the warm weather of early February, 1938. Small flocks of Canada Geese were also noted going north during this same period. Prairie Falcons were to be found in about normal numbers, with one or more being noticed every few days during January and February.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

Red-wings at a Corn-crib.—About three miles north of Harpers Ferry, in the southeast corner of Lafayette Township in Allamakee County, the valley of a considerable tributary creek opens into the canyon valley of the Mississippi. On the bottomland at its mouth there was, last summer, a cornfield, the crop from which was stored in a crib beside the unfrequented road up the river. Passing there early in March, 1938, we saw a flock of 75 male Red-winged Blackbirds in the trees and cornfield and in the crib. Most of the accessible ears of corn on top, and those that could be reached through the cracks in the crib, had been stripped of their kernels. The owner of the corn told us that the blackbirds had been there all winter and had lived on his corn.—ELLISON ORR, Waukon, Iowa.

Bewick's Wren and other Birds at Vinton.—On April 15, 1937, I noted my first pair of Bewick's Wrens in this locality. I next saw them on April 19, when they started a nest on a shelf beside a small porch door. They worked faithfully the greater part of three days, then for eight days they were just in and out, but the male sang his beautiful song constantly. On May 3 I noted two eggs. Two days later I found the nest scattered over the porch floor. I didn't see the female again, but the male returned later with a female House Wren and began building in a wren house on the same porch. They were finally driven out by another House Wren.

On the afternoon of August 28, 1936, I heard jays, robins, grackles and sparrows which were greatly excited in some large trees at the rear of our place. I could not determine the cause, but later I picked up a dead Starling, still warm, beneath the trees. It is possible there had been a battle among the birds.

An Indigo Bunting reared a brood of young in our raspberry patch in the summer of 1937. I was unable to find the nest until July 8, a number of days after the young had left it. The male was unusually tame. From my observation this bird usually nests in thickets near water in my region. My home is near the river, with plenty of trees and shrubs and not much to disturb the birds that nest there. I have noticed a scarcity of Cardinals during the past two years, and have not seen a Tufted Titmouse during that time.—WALTER L. BURK, Vinton, Iowa.

Notes from Emmet County.—There were large numbers of White Pelicans on Mud Lake during the spring of 1937. Within my memory no large numbers of these birds have remained on any of the local lakes for more than a few days; but this year they began to arrive about April 13 and on the 18th the number on the lake was variously estimated at 200 or more. As they were constantly flying and moving about, it was difficult to make an accurate estimate. A considerable number of pelicans remained on the lake during May, and a few were reported to be staying on East Okoboji Lake during the summer. Associated with the pelicans on Mud Lake were many Double-crested Cormorants, which, sitting on a sand bar or in tall trees on the lake bank, made an interesting sight.

In May, 1937, a Barn Owl was taken near Wallingford and brought to the caretaker of Fort Defiance State Park, but it died shortly afterward. It was the first one I have seen in this vicinity.

For a few days, from May 15 to 20, the warbler migration was interesting. Of the warblers not common in this vicinity the following species were observed: a Golden-winged on May 15; a pair of Bay-breasted on May 18; a Black-throated Green on May 19. There were several observations of Chestnut-sided and Mourning Warblers.

In September, 1937, a Pileated Woodpecker was seen at various times in the woods at High Lake. It was seen several times by Christie Anderson near his home, and was also observed and identified by C.

F. Wolden. Although I visited the woods on several occasions, I did not see the bird. It has not been seen since October 9.

On November 4, 1937, a Snow Bunting was seen flying along a roadside and was observed as it sat on a fence-post. I have never seen these birds here except in the cold weather of midwinter; this lone bird seemed out of place so early in the season. There was much more brown in its plumage than I have seen on the birds in winter.

A Woodcock stayed at Mud Lake in August, 1935, and one was reported from a ravine near Estherville in the summer of 1937.—B. O. WOLDEN, Estherville, Iowa.

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Spiker, Chas. J. The Alder Flycatcher in Upland Situations; Wils. Bull., XLIX, p. 48.

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Thornburgh, M. Ellen. The Pileated Woodpecker in Clayton County, Iowa; Wils. Bull., XLIX, pp. 302-303.

—F. J. P.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT THOMAS

To the Members:

I take this way of telling the members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and especially those attending the Cedar Rapids meeting, that I deeply appreciate the honor of being elected the President of our Union. I know there are many members who are better qualified by training and experience to hold the office. However, I shall do all in my power to properly fill the position. This will be made easier than it otherwise would be, by the efficient work of our Secretary and Editor.



OUR NEW PRESIDENT
Judge O. S. Thomas
of Rock Rapids, Iowa

I have only one suggestion to make to the members. Mrs. Thomas and I were unable to attend the last meeting and I do not know the nature of the open forum conducted. However, at the 1937 meeting many members took part without any advance notice. Many interesting items were reported within a few minutes. If these observations, with some explanatory facts, were sent to the Editor of 'Iowa Bird Life', he would have considerable material for the magazine. 'Iowa Bird Life' is the medium which keeps us in touch with one another during the greater part of the year. Short notes for publication not only keep the members apprised of what

other members are doing, but help the Editor in the performance of a difficult task.

Truly yours,

O. S. THOMAS

RECENT BIRD BOOKS

THE BLUE-WINGED TEAL: ITS ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT, by Logan J. Bennett (Collegiate Press, Inc., Ames, Iowa, 1938; cloth, pp. i-xiv + 1-144, 57 illustrations incl. 19 vignettes and a colored frontispiece by Sidney H. Horn; price, \$1.50).

The U. S. Biological Survey transferred Logan J. Bennett to Pennsylvania on March 1st, and his excellent work in Iowa is ended for the present. During five years, 1932 to 1937, he was engaged in waterfowl research, stationed in the Ruthven area, Clay and Palo Alto Counties, Iowa, much of the time. The wild ducks were made one of the initial study projects in the wildlife research program of Iowa State College, and the Blue-winged Teal was singled out as worthy of particular attention, since it is the most common nesting duck in Iowa. Mr. Bennett's studies were further expanded by a visit to the ducks' nesting area in the western states and in Manitoba, and by a trip to their wintering grounds in Mexico. From the great store of data which he obtained first-hand comes this very worthwhile book.

The opening chapters describe the plumages of the Blue-winged Teal, outline its breeding range, and tell what routes it follows in its fall migration, which takes it to its winter range in Mexico. The author found it leaving southern Mexico early in January. By the time the

Blue-wings reached Iowa, late in March, many were mated or were courting preparatory to mating. There were more male birds, and it was not unusual for one female to be courted by from one to four males. The author's studies of courtship, mating, nesting and rearing of young in the marshes of northwest Iowa were very complete, and he describes his observations in interesting style. The female chose the nesting place; the nest was built in a hollow in the soil or in rotting marsh vegetation. The male birds deserted the females soon after they began incubation. The little ducks walked to the water within 12 hours after hatching. Nest destruction was caused by heavy rains, mowing or burning of grass by farmers, trampling by livestock, and raids of predatory mammals. The Ring-necked Pheasant frequently parasitized the teal's nest; one such nest contained 14 teal eggs and 11 pheasant eggs. In the chapters on the management of the Blue-winged Teal the importance of proper nesting and rearing cover is stressed. Restoration of breeding areas for the bird fits in with state and federal governmental plans for better use of agricultural lands and water conservation. We hope for larger numbers of wild ducks in the future. Mr. Bennett's book points the way for the realization of this hope.—F. J. P.

* * * * *

LOGBOOK OF MINNESOTA BIRD LIFE, 1917-1937, by Thomas S. Roberts (University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1938; cloth, pp. i-xii + 1-355, 1 pl. and 22 text cuts; price, \$3.50).

Over a period of 20 years Dr. Roberts of the University of Minnesota has prepared bi-monthly reports for the department called 'The Season' in 'Bird-Lore'. In this book his reports are reprinted. The birds have, of course, been the central theme of these reports, but Dr. Roberts has always gone much further and has given a full account of weather conditions, the progress of trees and vegetation, the blooming of flowers, and other prominent features in the nature world during the period under consideration. He has had the generous co-operation of bird students in various parts of Minnesota through the years, and they have contributed a great supply of valuable material. In writing up his own extensive observations, and drawing freely from the records of others, Dr. Roberts has compiled a very complete history of Minnesota ornithology from 1917 to 1937. The reports for the 20 years are well worth putting into book form. They will be more accessible and of greater value to all who will have occasion to consult the Minnesota data. The seasonal reports were often abbreviated to fit 'Bird-Lore's' pages. In this book they are published in their full, original form, while much additional material is published for the first time. The index which is provided is a model of thoroughness with detailed references to birds, trees, flowers, insects, and with the names of all contributors given.

The book is very nicely put up, with excellent binding, paper and printing. There are 21 line drawings, mostly of birds, and a frontispiece by W. J. Breckenridge. Only 500 copies of the book were printed. As a gesture of appreciation Dr. Roberts presented about 100 of these to the persons who furnished their notes for his use. The remaining 400 copies will soon be sold, and a second printing is not planned. Covering our neighboring state, the book contains much of value for Iowa bird students, who should secure a copy before the supply is sold out.—F. J. P.

* * * * *

BIRD NOTES FROM THE JOURNAL OF A NATURE LOVER, by William Graham Ross; arranged by Elda Illick Armknecht, edited by Ella Lamson Clark (published privately, 1938; cloth, pp. i-xiv + 1-169, map of region on end sheets).

Of the varied interests which occupied the life of William Graham Ross (1859-1927), Fairfield, Iowa, lawyer, the study of nature in all

its seasonal aspects seems to have been a predominant one. The birds came in for a large share of his attention. His rambles over the countryside near Fairfield took up much of his leisure time and extended all through the year. Sometimes he went alone, but usually his wife or children accompanied him. They walked, or old Dolly was hitched to the phaeton for longer trips. Some of the names that they gave to favorite haunts still endure—Esther's Knoll, Pebbly Brook, Picnic Point, the Thicket, Squirrel Woods, etc. For some 30 years Mr. Ross recorded his observations in journal form. His field notes were expanded to considerable length at home in the evenings or on rainy Sundays. It is from his journal during his most active years of 1898 to 1910 that the present book is made up. The material is arranged according to months of the year, so that the reader gets the effect of a journal running through one entire year. From the quality of the writing it would seem that the author planned eventual publication; yet the existence of the journals was never mentioned to outsiders and they were not discovered until after his death.

Mr. Ross admired nature from the aesthetic side, and he was inclined to be literary and philosophical. He was a reader of Thoreau, Burroughs and Torrey, and perhaps he came under their influence to a certain extent—in the trend of thought and literary quality of his writing there is a certain resemblance. His observations of birds are accurate and, working up from an amateur, he learned his ornithology well. There is a list of 197 species which he listed in a 10-year period ending in 1907. It is a pleasant little book—the kind to dip into at odd times for relaxation. It has a great deal of interest for Iowa people, and we are glad that this portion of the journals has been made available by the Ross descendants.—F. J. P.

* * * * *

NESTING BIRDS OF IOWA, by Thomas G. Scott and George O. Hendrickson (Ext. Circ. 247, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, March, 1938; wrappers, pp. 1-64; price, 10c).

This is a companion to the booklet on Iowa winter birds by the same authors. Fifty common summer residents are featured, each with an attractive line drawing by Sid Horn, and a brief but very useful description of its habits, song, food, etc. on the bottom half of the page. Fifteen other species already illustrated in the winter birds booklet are also described. It is recommended that school children color the outline drawings, in this way learning the markings of the birds so that they will be recognized more easily when seen in the field. The color description is given alongside each drawing. Instructions for building bird houses and baths are given, and a short chapter on the functions of birds' feathers, feet and legs, bill, wings and tails, opens other angles for study. It is an excellent guidebook for the young bird student. Its publication by Iowa State College, with the accompanying wide distribution that this institution will be able to give it, is an educational project deserving the highest commendation.—F. J. P.

* * * * *

THE SUMMER BIRDS OF THE LAKE OKOBOJI REGION OF IOWA, by T. C. Stephens (Univ. Ia. Studies in Nat. Hist., XVII, 1938; pub. by Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City; wrappers, pp. 277-340; price, 35c.)

As an Iowa regional list this is an important contribution. It is based on studies made during ten summers, from 1911 to 1919, and 1921, while the author was engaged in work at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. This is a region of much ornithological interest, combining lake and marsh with timber and prairie. The annotated list of 116 species is well worked up and gives us much valuable information on the birds of northwest Iowa.—F. J. P.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Thos. G. Scott, one of our members, published a 54-page paper on 'Mammals of Iowa' in the October, 1937 (XII, No. 1), issue of 'Iowa State College Journal of Science'. Upward of 100 species and sub-species are listed, and the distribution of each within the state is well covered. It is an authoritative treatise which will be useful to all serious students of mammal life in the Middle West.

The Sioux City Bird Club's mimeographed leaflet, 'The Dickcissel', reached Vol. II, No. 8, with the issue for April 29, 1938. This, the only mimeographed bird serial in our state, gives bird notes from the Sioux City region and covers the activities of one of our oldest local bird clubs. The Club celebrated its 25th anniversary on May 25, 1938. There was a banquet, followed by an illustrated lecture by Walter Rosen. About 100 persons were in attendance.

One of our members, Miss Margaret Murley, who is an instructor in the Sumner schools, spent her Easter vacation on a trip to New Orleans. As a side trip she also visited "Bird City," which is the famous bird refuge owned and operated by E. A. McIlhenny at Avery Island, Louisiana.

We note the death of Rev. P. B. Peabody on October 8, 1937. He was well known among the older bird men. Most of his residence was outside the state, but he lived a year or two at Independence, Iowa, about the period of 1917.

Ellis E. Wilson, an attorney of Waterloo, Iowa, died there on March 12, 1938, aged 77 years. Although he never joined our organization, he wrote several articles on birds in early Iowa which were published in 'Iowa Bird Life', and he took a keen interest in birds and nature throughout his life.

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